

SEP 15 2006

60130-2082; 03MRA0207

REMARKS

Claim 1-13 remain pending in the application. Claims 14-21 have been cancelled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. New dependent claims 22-23 have been added.

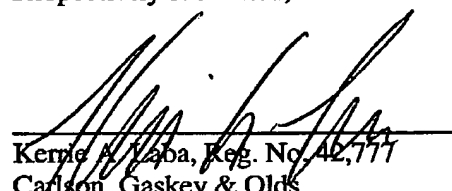
Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reece et al. (US 5895624). The examiner argues that Reece discloses reworking the protective foil by smoothing that occurs when the foil or film contacts a mold or die.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the step of reworking the protective foil occurs before the foil part is placed in the die. Reece does not disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed method. The smoothing referred to by the examiner clearly only occurs after the foil part has been placed in the die. The present application indicates that such smoothing is ineffective in providing a high surface quality, and further details the benefits that result from reworking the protective foil prior to placement in the die. See paragraphs [0020]-[0021].

The examiner further argues that Spain discloses polishing or buffing the protective coating, referring to col. 37, lines 21-23. However, this "polishing" does not refer to polishing a protective foil prior to placing the foil part in a die as defined in the claims. The polishing step referred to in Spain refers to a finished car body panel that has a water soluble protective outer coating that can be easily buffed or removed by a dealer or purchaser.

Thus, for the reasons set forth above applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance and requests an indication of such. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



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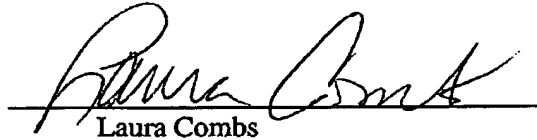
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on September, 2006.


Laura Combs